



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Park and Recreation Administrative Office Building, located at 5841 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28216 on August 8, 2017 at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES**  
**August 8, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRC Present:**

Elaine Powell, Chair  
Tristan McMannis, Executive Secretary  
Sterling Martin  
Brian Cox  
Heidi Pruess  
Doug Burnett  
Rick Winiker  
Peter Engels  
Mary Johnson  
Marc Seelinger  
Kendel Bryant  
John Leonard

**PRC Absent:**

Northern Towns – Vacant Position

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chair Elaine Powell, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Chair Powell welcomed all to the August 8, 2017 Park and Recreation Commission meeting and each of the Commissioners and staff introduced themselves. A special “welcome back” was made to Commissioner John Leonard on his reappointment to the Park and Recreation Commission. John was reappointed by the Board of County Commissioners to the South Park Region 2.

**Public Appearance:** None

**Proclamations, Awards and Recognitions**

**Kendel Bryant:** Chair Elaine Powell recognized Commissioner Kendel Bryant for her dedicated service in her role as Vice-Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

**PRC 2008 Bond Advocacy:** Director Jim Garges made special recognition of all the Park and Recreation Commissioners for their tireless and dedicated advocacy efforts in support of funding the remaining park projects from the 2008 bond package. The PRC were victorious in their efforts along with the efforts of many other groups and citizens who came out in support. The BOCC at the August 2, 2017 meeting approved funding in the 2019-2023 CIP for the remaining 2008 Park Bond projects. Director Garges said it was one of the most effective advocacy efforts he had every witnessed.

### **Staff Presentations:**

**FY18 AND FY19-23 CIP:** Lee Jones, Division Director of Capital Planning, made a presentation on the approved projects in FY18 and in the FY19-23 CIP. The presentation provided information on each of the project's funding, status, and specific details regarding the projects. The presentation covered the following approved projects:

- LSC GW – Polk Historic Site to SC State Line
- Eastway Regional Recreation Center
- Northern Regional Recreation Center
- Pearle Street Neighborhood Park
- David B. Waymer Recreation Center Renovations
- Mayerling Drive Neighborhood Park
- Walker Branch Greenway
- Marion Diehl Recreation Center Renovations
- Long Creek Greenway, Phase 2
- Sugaw Creek Recreation Center Renovations
- McDowell Creek Greenway – NC73 to Chilgrove Lane
- McAlpine Creek Greenway – Green Rea Road to Johnston Rd.
- Stewart Creek Greenway – W. Trade to State St., and MLK Park to Blenheim Rd.
- Irvins Creek Greenway – Idlewild Rd. to Lakeview Circle
- Torrence Trib #2 Greenway – CATS Park and Ride to Rosewood Meadow Dr.
- Plum Creek Greenway – S. Bailey Rd. to S. Prong Rocky River GW
- Independence Park Improvements
- Discovery Place Nature Museum
- Land Acquisition

The PRC were also provided with the cash flow sheet of the previously “unfunded” 2008 bond projects. Since the vote by the BOCC to fund these projects with \$49 million, the cash flow for the FY19-23 CIP will be revised to include the additional 2008 bond projects. The recommendation will be to start as many of these projects as possible as early as possible and substantially complete in the FY19-23 CIP. Once the cash flow is revised, Director Garges will bring an update to the PRC.

The project map will be updated with the 2008 bond projects to show how these projects serve to fill service gaps across the county.

Discussion resulted in the following:

**Land Acquisition:** The County will continue to set aside \$6.6 million each year for land acquisition. For the purchase of parcels in excess of \$6.6 million the Department will work with The Conservation Fund and Trust for Public Land; two organizations that can assist municipalities

and states with land purchases. This will be the case with the purchase of a large parcel the Department is currently working on acquiring. These organizations will buy and hold the land and allow payment over time.

**Greenway Land Acquisition:** The Department typically sets aside \$1 million of the \$6.6 million for greenway land acquisition. The Department moves as quickly as they can to acquire land once the owner agrees to sell.

**Staffing:** Projects are managed and supported by Capital Planning staff (6), Asset and Facility Management project managers and hired project consultants.

This presentation can be viewed here: [FY18 and FY19-23 Capital Improvement Plan](#)

**COMMUNITY AND RECREATION CENTER SERVICES – FY17 IN REVIEW:** Terri Stowers, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services, made a presentation on programming throughout the division in FY17. The presentation covered programming information and participation in the followings areas:

- Cooperative Extension
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Sports and Fitness
- Grady Cole and Memorial Stadium
- Senior Services
- Aquatic Recreation
- Recreation Centers
- North, South and Central Regions

Discussion followed:

**American Legion Memorial Stadium:** The BOCC moved to transfer ownership of Memorial Stadium to the City of Charlotte. The motion was as follows:

***Item 17-4152 FY 2018-FY2023 Capital Improvement Program Funding for Major League Soccer (MLS) Stadium, Parks & Greenway Projects***

*Substitute motion was made by Commissioner Puckett, seconded by Commissioner Cotham and carried 5-3 with Commissioners Cotham, James, Puckett, Ridenhour and Scarborough voting yes and Commissioners Clarke, Dunlap, and Fuller voting no, to authorize the deeding of the Memorial Stadium and Grady Cole property to the City of Charlotte, contingent upon their acceptance, for uses only related to Major League Soccer. Further, that the County's participation in any Major-League Soccer (MLS) Stadium in Mecklenburg County would be limited to the County's donation of the Memorial Stadium and Grady Cole property to the City of Charlotte for that purpose. Finally, to authorize and include in the FY2019-FY2023 Capital Improvement Plan, \$49 million for the completion of all remaining projects included in the Parks 2008 Bond.*

Director Garges said that in the event the City of Charlotte does not accept the Stadium and it reverts back to the County, the Department will proceed with the renovation plans as outlined in the Master Plan; expand the field, rebuild the lower bowl and make it expandable and rebuild/renovate Grady Cole at the appropriate time. In the event the City accepts the stadium, staff at Grady Cole/Memorial Stadium will not be impacted.

Memorial Stadium/Grady Cole hosted 52 events in FY17.

**Capacity Issues:** Regarding programming, our greatest capacity barriers are summer camps. Camps fill quickly and there is great demand for more. This issue also exists among all nature based programs and camps. This is why renovations and expansions are so important for our recreation centers; to create more capacity.

This presentation can be viewed here: [Community and Recreation Center Services FY17 In Review](#)

### **Advisory Council Appointments/Reappointments:**

**Athletics:** Commissioner Sterling deferred appointments to the September 12 Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

**South:** **Motion was made** by Commissioner Burnett to appoint **Brian McCulloch** to an unexpired term on the South Advisory Council, expiring 6/2018, which was seconded by Commissioner Leonard and approved unanimously.

**Stewardship:** **Motion was made** by Commissioner Pruess to appoint **Carrie DeJaco** to a full term on the Stewardship Advisory Council, expiring 6/2020, which was seconded by Commissioner Powell and approved unanimously.

### **Director's Report**

**Greenways for Mecklenburg:** Director Garges gave a short recap on the new non-profit which is strictly focused on Greenways. Greenways for Mecklenburg and Partners for Parks will be working in partnership to advocate for greenways. Both non-profits have the ability to accept funds, but for Greenways for Mecklenburg, the main focus will be advocacy. Ed Barnhart is the President and Tedd Duncan is the Vice-President. The group is currently looking for a Treasurer. This person would need to have a financial background, CPA and have a passion for greenways and the desire to give back. Al Brown, Treasurer for Partners for Parks, is currently filling that void for Greenways for Mecklenburg.

A fund-raising event is set for October. The group has a \$40,000 challenge to try and meet before the end of the year.

### **Regional Recreation Centers – Update:**

- Both regional recreation centers have interactive websites. Information and documents are posted to these sites.
  - Eastway Regional Recreation Center = eastwayrec.com
  - North Regional Recreation Center = northmeckrec.com
- The design team was in recently to talk about the business plan for each of the centers. Each regional recreation center will have a formal business plan that sets the operational goals, revenue targets, staffing model and budget.
- The design team specifically addressed the aquatics component for the regional centers. As the most expensive component of the center, it is important to have this budget item locked down.

- The Eastway Center has the construction manager at risk on board from Edifice. A new design team for the North center will be selected and then a construction manager at risk will come on board for the North project.

**Park Road Park Spill:** Peter Cook, Director of Park Operations, addressed the recent sanitary sewer overflow at Park Road Park. Notification of the spill came from a citizen through 311 and to our on-call number. Within an hour of the alert, the Department had a plumber and water quality on site. The system at Park Road is a private gravity system and had become clogged with grease and debris resulting in an overflow. Charlotte Water helped with the clean-out and staff were on hand for clean-up. Water Quality obtained a water sample for testing, issued an advisory and posted signs. The water quality test results were back on Monday at below the water quality levels and the signs were removed.

The Department inspects septic systems annually and lift stations are inspected weekly.

Commissioner Pruess said she would be attending a follow-up meeting with staff, Storm Water and Charlotte Water to address water issues and erosion in our parks. She asked that the PRC inform her of any concerns they would like for her to address at this meeting. This meeting is set for September 6, 2017 at 1:00 at the Administrative Office Building located at 5841 Brookshire Blvd.

### **PRC Chair Report:**

Chair Elaine Powell shared calls from citizens:

- Ron Hare Nature Trail: NorthEnd Partners would like guidance from Park and Recreation on trail maintenance of the Ron Hare Nature Trail in the Hidden Valley Community. They have a lunch meeting set for September 6. Someone will be contacting the Department.
- Irwin Avenue Parcel: Several calls from citizens expressing concern over the publicly owned Irwin Avenue parcel near Ray's Splash Planet. There is pressure to develop this parcel. The Greenway Advisory Council has been discussing this issue at their meetings and any developments will be brought to the attention of the PRC.
- Dennis Rash Naming: Elaine received information regarding the desire to name a portion of 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Park after Dennis Rash. Elaine provided them with the policy and application. She wanted the Department to know this would be coming. Director Garges shared that Dennis was known as the "Mayor of 4<sup>th</sup> Ward" and was instrumental in transforming Charlotte Center City.
- Advocacy Efforts: Elaine express her appreciation of all that played a part in advocating for funding to complete the 2008 park bond projects.

### **Consent Items**

Commissioner Pruess pulled item 11a3 (17-4165 Naming Application – Hoskins Park to "Eva B. Barber Neighborhood Park") from the consent items and then **made a motion** to approve the remaining consent items, including the PRC Minutes of June 13, 2017, which was seconded by Commissioner Burnett and approved unanimously

**Item 11a3 Discussion:** This renaming application, Hoskins Park to "Eva B. Barber Neighborhood Park" was submitted by Commissioner Vilma Leake. This naming request was brought to the attention of the North Advisory Council on August 7 and a motion was made by the North Advisory Council to not endorse the renaming until it was clear the process had been followed.

Peter Cook, Director of Park Operations, said the BOCC followed the application process which includes the application, petition signatures and a background check, all of which were placed on the August 2 BOCC meeting. At that time, a public hearing was scheduled for September 5, 2017 and the Clerk to the Board was directed to publish the notice of public hearing as required. Peter Cook asked that the North Advisory Council be made aware of this naming application and that it also go before the Park and Recreation Commission. The naming policy can be viewed here: [Mecklenburg County Facility Naming Policy](#)

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Pruess to support the renaming of Hoskins Park to “Eva B. Barber Neighborhood Park”, with the assurance of staff that the process was followed, which was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and approved unanimously.

The naming application can be viewed here: [Hoskins Park to “Eva B. Barber Neighborhood Park”](#)

### **PRC Reports and Requests**

**Commissioner Burnett:** Asked for confirmation regarding the Ron Hare Nature Trail in the North End.

**Commissioner Pruess:** Expressed her appreciation for the advocacy efforts.

**Commissioner Winiker:** Attended the Camp Greene Centennial Celebration and was excited about the possibility of future trails and parks in that community.

**Commissioner Johnson:** Attended a Carolina Panthers event. The youth present received tickets to the game.

**Commissioner Leonard:** Expressed his appreciation to be back on the Park and Recreation Commission.

**Commissioner Martin:** Shared that he took a walk on the newly paved Fisher Farm Greenway. Official opening of this greenway will be around the 15<sup>th</sup>. Abersham will close to also pave a greenway trail.

**Commissioner Powell:** Shared her appreciation of Lieutenant General Michael S. Tucker from the Camp Greene Centennial Celebration.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.